

Application Serial No. 10/542,077
Reply to Office Action of May 22, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid comprising a container main body having a take-out port for a content, a lid attached to the container main body so as to open and close the take-out port, a lid urging device interposed between the container main body and the lid for urging the lid in an opening direction, and an operation member attached to the container main body in the state that the operation member can be operated between a close position at which it is meshed with the lid and keeps the lid in a closed state against the lid urging device and an open position at which the operation member is released from the lid meshed therewith, wherein:

a locking member is attached to the operation member, the locking member being movable between a locking position and a release position, at which when the locking member is at the locking position, the locking member is meshed with the lid that is in the closed state as well as is abutted with respect to an operating direction of the operation member against a locking surface of the container main body ~~as to an operating direction of the operation member to~~, thereby to make it impossible for the operation member to be operated from the close position to the open position, and [[a]]

when the locking member is at the release position, at which the locking member is separated from the lid that is in the closed state and from the locking surface of the container main body and permits the operation member to be operated from the close position to the open position.

2. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 1, wherein an operation surface, which is exposed to an outside surface side of the container main body, is formed to the operation member, and the locking member is disposed so as to be movable between the locking position and the release position on a back surface side of the operation surface.

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3. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 2, wherein the operation member is disposed so as to move from the close position to the open position by depressing the operation surface, and the locking member is disposed so as to move between the locking position and the release position in the state that it is supported by the operation member as to the direction in which the operation surface is depressed.

4. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 3, wherein a guide surface, which is in contact with the locking member, is formed on the back surface side of the operation member as well as a spring portion, which protrudes from the guide surface and urges the operation member to the close position, is disposed to the back surface side thereof, and the locking member is supported so as to be slidable between the locking position and the release position while being in contact with the guide surface by being inserted into a first groove portion formed in the spring portion.

5. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 4, comprising an extraction prevention device for preventing the locking member from being extracted from the first groove portion of the operation member.

6. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 5, wherein a shaft portion, which is divided by a slit, is disposed on the back surface side of the operation member, a second groove portion, which is engaged with the shaft portion, is formed to the locking member so as to open in the direction in which the locking member is inserted into the groove second portion of the operation member, and a pawl portion as the extraction prevention device, which reduces the width of the groove, is disposed in the groove.

7. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 6, wherein the second groove portion of the locking member is partitioned by the pawl portion to a first holding portion, to which the shaft portion is fitted when the locking member is located at the release position, and a second holding portion to

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which the shaft portion is fitted when the locking member is located at the locking position.

8. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 5, wherein a stepped portion is disposed on the back surface side of the operation member, and a protruding stopper as the extraction prevention device is disposed on the surface of the locking member confronting the operation member, the stopper being capable of being engaged with the stepped portion as to the direction in which the locking member is extracted from the groove portion of the operation member as well as extending in a wedge state as to the direction in which the locking member is inserted into the groove portion of the operation member.

9. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 5, wherein a pawl portion as the extraction prevention device is disposed to the locking member, the pawl portion more protruding laterally with respect to the extracting direction in which the locking member is extracted from the first groove portion of the operation member as it more advances in the extracting direction.

10. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 2, wherein a finger-placing portion is disposed to the locking member, the finger-placing portion being located at the end of the operation member in the extracting direction thereof with respect to the groove portion of the operation member and protruding from the operation surface.

11. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 10, wherein the finger-placing portion protrudes beyond the outside surface of the container main body.

12. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 11, wherein the container main body is formed in a constricted shape in which the central portion thereof is constricted when it is viewed from the take-out port side, and the operation member is disposed in the constricted portion.

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13. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 2, wherein a leg portion, which is abutted against the locking surface of the container main body at the locking position, is disposed on the back surface side of the locking member.
14. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 1, wherein a locking concave portion is disposed to the front edge of the lid that confronts the operation member when the lid is in the closed state, and a locking portion is disposed to the locking member, the locking portion being inserted into the locking concave portion when the lid is closed and the locking member is moved to the locking position and released from the locking concave portion when the locking member is moved to the release position.
15. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 1, wherein a push-up member is disposed to the operation member or the locking member, the push-up member coming into contact with the lid and pushing up the lid in a direction where it is opened when the operation member is operated from the close position to the open position.
16. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 1, wherein a strap attachment portion, to which a strap can be attached, is disposed to the container main body.
17. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid according to claim 1, wherein any one of the operation member and the locking member contains a luminous material.
18. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid comprising a container main body having a take-out port for a content, a lid attached to the container main body so as to open and close the take-out port, a lid urging device interposed between the container main body and the lid for urging the lid in an opening direction, and an operation member attached to the container main body in the state that the operation member can be operated between a close position at

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which it is meshed with the lid and keeps the lid in a closed state against the lid urging device and an open position at which the operation member is released from the lid meshed therewith, wherein:

the container main body is formed in a constricted shape in which the central portion of the outer periphery thereof is more constricted than the portions at both sides of the central portion when [[it is]] viewed from the take-out port side, and the operation member is disposed in the constricted portion such that, when a film having enough width to reach the portions at both sides of the central portion is wrapped around the container main body, the operation member is disposed away from the inside of the film.

19. (Currently Amended) A container with [[a]] an auto-opening lid comprising a container main body having a take-out port for a content, a lid attached to the container main body so as to open and close the take-out port, a lid urging device interposed between the container main body and the lid for urging the lid in an opening direction, and an operation member attached to the container main body in the state that the operation member can be operated between a close position at which it is meshed with the lid and keeps the lid in a closed state against the lid urging device and an open position at which the operation member is released from the lid meshed therewith, wherein:

a strap attachment portion, to which a strap can be attached, is disposed to the container main body.

20. (New) A container with an auto-opening lid according to Claim 1, wherein:
the locking member has a leg portion abutted therefrom in the operating direction of the operating member, and
the leg portion is abutted against the locking surface of the container main body.